

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 06300 140024 Z

66

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /104 W
----- 067472

R 131301 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0139

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6300

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 13 APRIL 1973

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA APRIL 13, 1973
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L/ NOFORN BIEN HOA 0071

SUBJ: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 13 APRIL 1973

REF: BIEN HOA 0050

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

1. VIETNAMESE SOURCES IN THE PRIME MINISTER' S OFFICE TELL US
THAT A CABINET SHUFFLE IS SCHEDULED FOR SHORTLY AFTER PRESIDENT
THIEU' S RETURN, AS WELL AS THE REPLACEMENT OF UP TO 20 PROVINCE
CHIEFS. THE CHANGES IN PROVINCE CHIEFS WILL BE IN LINE WITH
GRVN EFFORTS TO FOCUS ON POLITICAL MOBILIZATION, ESPECIALLY
IN PROVINCES THAT HAVE A HIGH DEGREE OF SECURITY AND A LARGE
POPULATION. (COMMENT: THIS MAY BE JUST ONE MORE SAIGON RUMOR
SINCE A CHANGE OF 20 PROVINCE CHIEFS AT ONE TIME SEEMS HIGHLY
UNLIKELY TO US, ESPECIALLY RIGHT NOW WITH SO MUCH GOING ON.)

2. NATIONAL POLICE HARASSMENT OF VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES AT AND
" VISITORS" TO THE ICCS REGION V COMPOUND CONTINUES DESPITE THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 06300 140024 Z

SUPPOSED INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICE INSTRUCTIONS ON APRIL 1 (REFTEL).

THE EMPLOYEES ARE FOLLOWED HOME AND QUESTIONED BY CID. THE "VISITORS"

ARE PICKED UP AND INTERROGATED THE DAY AFTER, AND HELD FOR SEVERAL DAYS AT A TIME IN SOME CASES. THE CANADIANS ARE GETTING MADDER AND MADDER ABOUT SUCH TACTICS, AND ARE PREPARING TO PROTEST AGAIN BOTH HERE AND IN SAIGON.

3. AT 2030 APRIL 8 SIX ROUNDS OF 82 MM MORTAR WERE FIRED INTO TRUNG TAM HAMLET, TRANG BOM VILLAGE, DUC TU DISTRICT, BIEN HOA PROVINCE, SERIOUSLY WOUNDING THREE CIVILIANS. AT 0950 APRIL 10, THE TRANG Y. VILLAGE COUNCIL ORGANIZED A DEMONSTRATION AT THE TRANG BO. MARKET UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF A BIEN HOA PROVINCE COUNCILMAN, THE DEPUTY DISTRICT CHIEF, AND THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE. ABOUT 500 LOCAL RESIDENTS DENOUNCED COMMUNIST CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS AND DEMANDED THAT THE ICCS FORCE THE COMMUNISTS TO COMPENSATE THE VICTIMS. AT 1030 A SEVEN- MAN DELEGATION WENT TO THE ICCS REGION V HEADQUARTERS IN BIEN HOA CITY TO DELIVER A PROTEST, WHICH WAS RECEIVED BY THE ICCS CHAIRMAN WHO, ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, PROMISED HE WOULD SEND THE LETTER TO THE CENTRAL ICCS TO BE RESOLVED. THE BEN CAT ICCS TEAM HAS BEEN DIRECTED BY REGION V TO COMPLETE THEIR INVESTIGATIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY BY APRIL 19. THESE INCLUDE THE ATTACK MARCH 15 ON AN ARVN CONVOY IN PHU GIAO DISTRICT, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE INVESTIGATED TODAY. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN COOPERATIVE THIS WEEK TO THE EXTENT OF PARTICIPATING IN THE INVESTIGATIONS, BUT HAVE FORCED LATE- NIGHT SESSIONS BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENTS OVER FINDINGS. PROGRESS MAY BE SLOWER NEXT WEEK WITH THE POLES IN THE CHAIR.

5. CANADIAN ICCS SOURCES REPORT THAT THE BEN CAT TEAM, WITH RVN KNOWLEDGE AND PERMISSION, ADDRESSED A LETTER LAST WEEK TO THE PRG REQUESTING PERMISSION TO TRAVEL NORTH ON ROUTE 13 (IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS PARTICIPATED IN THIS EFFORT). A VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN DELIVERED THE LETTER TO A VC CHECKPOINT NORTH OF LAI KHE. THE VC REFUSED THE LETTER, AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER, PERHAPS COINCIDENTALLY, STOPPED ALL TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD BETWEEN LAI KHE AND CHON THANH.

6. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3 CONTINUED AT A LOW LEVEL, UP SLIGHTLY FROM YESTERDAY. THERE WERE 19 INCIDENTS REPORTED, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 06300 140024 Z

CONSISTING OF NINE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), SIX GROUND CONTACTS, AND FOUR MININGS. THE SIEGE OF TON LE CHAM BASE CAMP CONTINUED, HOWEVER. YESTERDAY THE CAMP RECEIVED 231 ROUNDS OF MORTAR, ARTILLERY AND ROCKET FIRE RESULTING IN ONE BUNKER DESTROYED AND ONE M60 MACHING GUN POSITION HEAVILY DAMAGED. NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. SEVEN OF THE INCIDENTS REPORTED WERE IN DUC THANH DISTRICT, PHUOC TUY PROVINCE: THREE GROUND ATTACKS AND FOUR ABF. TOTAL RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE TWO KILLED, SEVEN WOUNDED, AND TWO M113 TANKS DAMAGED. TWO OF THE GROUND ATTACKS WERE INITIATED BY ESTIMATED COMPANY- SIZED NVA FORCES. ONE ATTACK WAS FIVE KMS NORTH OF THE DUC THANH DISTRICT SEAT, AND THE OTHER WAS SEVEN KMS SOUT OF IT. THE FOUR MININGS OCCURRED WHILE RVNAF UNITS WERE CONDUCTING SEARCH OPERATIONS IN BINH LONG, BINH DUONG, AND HAU NGHIA PROVINCES. TOTAL RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE FOUR KILLED AND SIX WOUNDED. WALKINSHAW QUNQUOTE:
BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON06300
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730442/aaaaincx.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980113
Subject: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 13 APRIL 1973
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT
To: EA
JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005